

M. Chasmo. Sig. Doulan
Napoli per l'autore

"It is particularly requested that those Gentlemen who may obtain Copies of their Papers, printed in the Archæologia, or Vetusta Monumenta, do use every possible means to prevent those papers appearing in any other work, previous to the period of their publication in either of the above-mentioned Volumes."

6

Note on a Vase with Pelops Plexippus, in the British Museum. By
SAMUEL BIRCH, Esq., F.S.A., Assistant Keeper of the Antiquities in
the British Museum.

From the *ARCHAEOLOGIA*, Vol. XXXI. pp. 265, 266.

A cylix of fine ware, with red figures upon a black background, acquired from the Princess de Canino by the British Museum, has, on one side, a combat of warriors, the principal of whom is named Menelaus, MENELEOΣ. The reverse represents a naked youth whose head is crowned, with a garment thrown across his shoulders, leading a horse in each hand by a bridle. Above the head of this figure is inscribed ΠΛΕΞΙΠΠΟΣ (πλεξιππος.)

The subject does not accord with any of the myths relative to the two Plexippi; and, as on many vases, the epithets of distinguished personages are found replacing their names, I am disposed to consider that the artist intended Pelops in allusion to the epithet πλεξιππος, or "driver," applied by Homer* to that hero.

I shall not here enter into a consideration of the whole story of the celebrated contest with Œnomaus, but merely the early portion, which applies to the vase. Poseidon, not from the most worthy of motives, is said to have bestowed on the youthful Pelops the celebrated steeds which were to outstrip the tyrant Œnomaus.¹ According to the account of Phercydes, these were winged *ἀνέμους*,² and were not improbably the celebrated Pegasus and Arion. The contest is generally indeed represented on works of art as taking place with quadrigæ;³ and there is reason to suppose, from the symmetry of Greek art, and the fact of the chariot of Œnomaus being

¹ Il. B. 104, 5. Euseb. Chron. i. p. 29, Ed. Scalig. Cf. *metaphor κτήρας δελίων ἵππων*. Eustath. ad Dion. Perieg. v. 828, applied to Timotheus.

² Pind. Ol. A. 95 *et seq.*

³ Cf. Palephat. de Incréd. 30. Fragn. Hist. Græc. 8vo. Par. 1841, Pher. fr. 93, p. 95.

⁴ Cf. Euripid. Helen. 993. Tzetzes, ad Lyc. 156 sq. Pass. v. 10. Hyginus, fab. 84. Schol. ad Hom., B. 104.



a quadriga, that Pelops also had four horses on the pediment of the Temple of Jupiter at Olympia.* On a vase of Basilicata style,[†] and also on the Roman terra-cotta in the British Museum,[‡] he drives a quadriga; and on a late sarcophagus, where the subject is treated as a race in a Roman hippodrome,[§] he also is drawn by as many horses.

There are, however, several reasons for supposing that a tradition, equally early at least, made the race take place in a biga. The two mares of the unsuccessful suitor Marmax, named Parthenia and Eripha, were killed at the sepulchre of that person. The horses of Enomaus, swifter than the north wind,^{||} were two mares named Harpinna and Psilla,[¶] and on the chlamys of Jason the fatal course was run in bigæ. On a gem in the Berlin Museum, Poseidon is drawn by the two winged steeds of mythology, Pegasus and Arion.^{||} The horses of Pelops on the vase are not winged, neither are they on many works of art, and none of very archaic character representing this contest exist. The action is apparently that of hastening to Elis to engage in the course, after having harnessed his horses in the presence of Poseidon.^{¶¶}

* Paus. loc. cit.

[†] Taylor Combe, Terra-cottas, no. 34.

[‡] Inghirami, Mon. Etrusc. N. V. T. xv.

[§] Millin, Gal. Myth. cxxiii. 521*.

^{||} Hygin. l. v.

[¶] Schol. ad Apollon. Arg. l. 752. Tzetzes ad Lyn. 166.

^{||} Tolkien, Dr. E. H. Verzeichn. der Geschn. Steine, 8vo. Berlin, 1855, p. 227, No. 201.

^{¶¶} Philostr. Sen. xxx. & Welcker. xxx.

1121
1542736

M. Chea^{er}

Sy. William Napier
Jr. 11' anton

"It is particularly requested that those Gentlemen who may obtain Copies of their Papers, printed in the Archaeologia, or Vetusta Monumenta, do use every possible means to prevent those papers appearing in any other work, previous to the period of their publication in either of the above-mentioned Volumes."

